

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing a sheet of a crosslinked polyolefin foam expanded in an essentially unidirectional expansion only in its thickness, comprising surface-crosslinking both faces of an unsupported intermediate polyolefin sheet to be expanded so that its degree of surface crosslinking is different from its core, these faces being perpendicular to the direction of expansion, and expanding and crosslinking the so formed sheet only in its thickness.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 10, carried out continuously.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 10, wherein the polyolefin foam comprises at least 20% by weight of a polyethylene or of an essentially linear ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.80 to 0.96 g/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 15, wherein the polyethylene or ethylene copolymer is obtained by metallocene catalysis and has a density of at most 0.92 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A compliant crosslinked foam obtained by the process of Claim 10.

Claims 18-19 (Cancelled).